

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

INDIANAPOLIS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 21, 1988

TO: U.S.S. Lead Refinery, Inc., RCRA File
IND 047030226, East Chicago, Lake County

THRU: Michael E. Sickels 1/17/89
D. Bruce Kizer MES
PBX 1/19

FROM: Ted Warner TW
Compliance Monitoring Section

SUBJECT: Trip Report for the Enforcement Case Development Inspection of
October 20, 1988

On October 20, 1988, Mr. Michael E. Sickels of our Enforcement Section, Mr. Michael Kuss of the Office of Water Management and I visited the U.S.S. Lead Refinery, Inc., facility located at 5300 Kennedy Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana. The facility was represented by Mr. Richard Liscum, company bookkeeper. U.S.S. Lead Refinery, Inc., (U.S.S Lead) is inactive at this time and Mr. Liscum was at the site by prearrangement.

Preinspection File Audit

U.S.S. Lead operated as a lead-acid battery reclaimer until ceasing operations in 1986. The purpose of Mr. Sickels and my inspection was to access the present compliance with compliant cause number N-296 and to observe the condition of the site, most specifically the areas west and north of the tank house. U.S.S. Lead representatives in the past, have not indicated that the areas west and north of the tank house were used to manage hazardous waste in piles.

The purpose of Mr. Kuss' visit was to inspect the facility for drainways for non-notified outfalls leading to the Grand Calumet River.

Inspection Findings

We begin our inspection by questioning Mr. Liscum regarding any changes or corrections of past violations at the site. Mr. Liscum indicated there has been no changes at the site from the date of my last inspection on October 29, 1987.

Our visual inspection of the site started at the tank house, which is used to store hazardous waste piles of baghouse dust. We inspected the site in generally, a counter clockwise direction. The site covers a total of seventy-nine (79) acres and twenty-nine (29) acres of the total are fenced. We inspected the building directly west of the tank house, which we have identified as building B-2. This building contained a large pile of slag or sludge type material, as well as eleven (11) 55-gallon fiber board containers

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



308198

Reference #33

labeled powdered aloin residue. We found one more building containing abandoned drums. We have identified this building as B-1. This building contained thirty (30) 55-gallon steel containers, six (6) 55-gallon fiber board containers, four (4) 30-gallon steel containers, twenty (20) 5-gallon steel pales and one (1) 2-gallon steel pale. The list of labels on these containers were insulkote primer oakite 19-haliakylene, gear oil, cylinder oil, turpentine, surfacing agent, meropa 150-texaco, and atprimer 100B-binding agent. (See attached diagrams for building locations and contents.)

Following the inspection of the buildings, we observed hazardous waste piles of calcium sulfate stored outside and south of the tank house.

As we proceeded west we came upon a large waste pile area that contained plastic chips, rubber, partial casings, plates, and used baghouse filters containing dust. We designated this area as waste pile W-2 on the attached diagram. Also see attached photographs. Further west, but within the fenced portion of the site, we found another waste pile area which we have designated as waste pile W-1. Before leaving this general area, we found an additional waste pile area W-3. Another waste pile area (W-4) was observed north of the tank house. Our final area of concern was the previously sampled Grand Calumet fill area, south of the building complex. We noted and photographed several areas near and in the water, which contained plastic chips, rubber, partial casings, plates and used baghouse filters containing dust.

This on-site inspection was conducted in Level C protective gear.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The information obtained during this inspection, will be returned to the Enforcement Section and addressed during upcoming formal hearing procedures (Cause No. N-296).

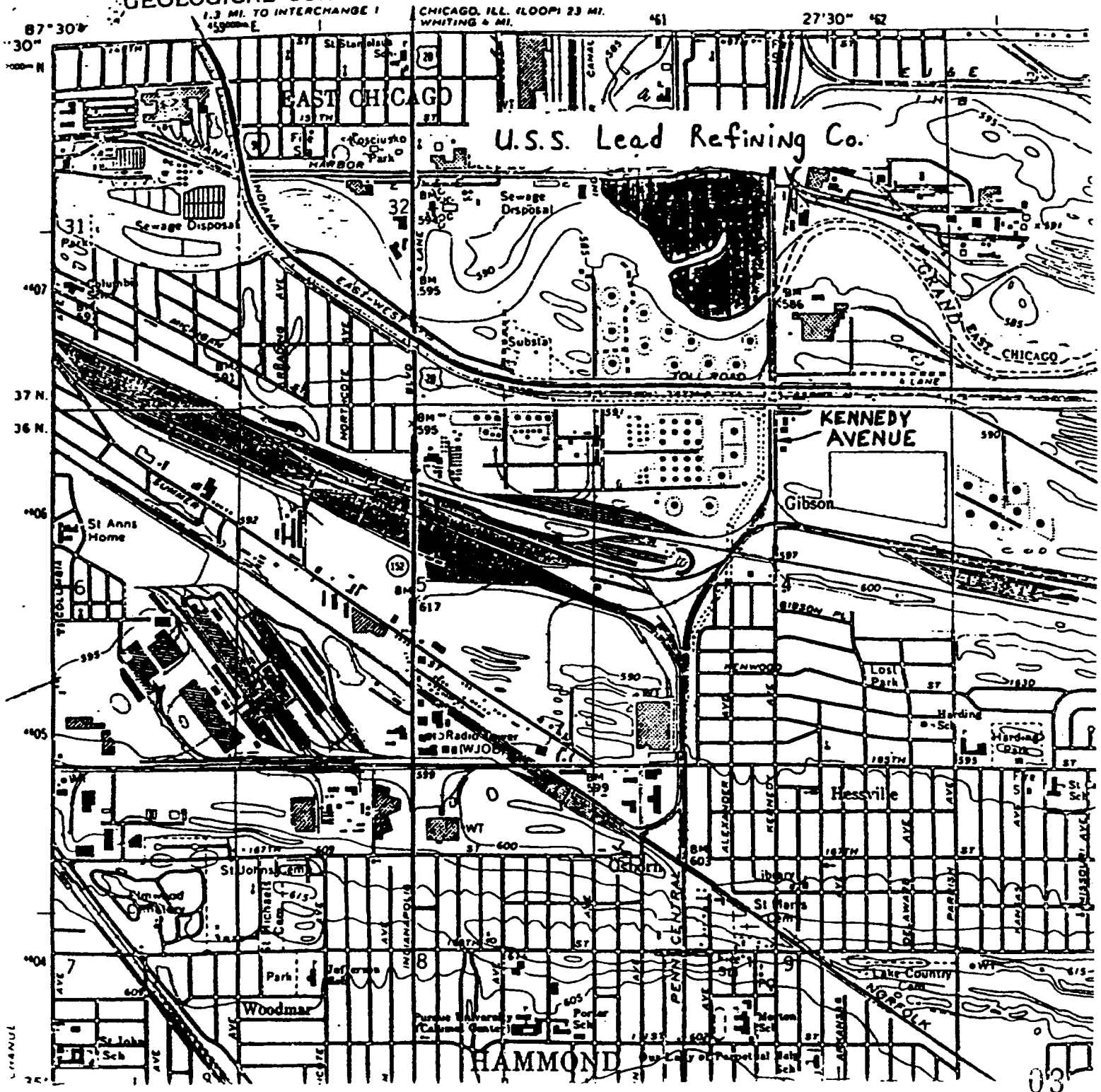
TFW/jib

cc: Mr. Michael E. Sickels, Enforcement Section
Mr. Michael Kuss, Office of Water Management

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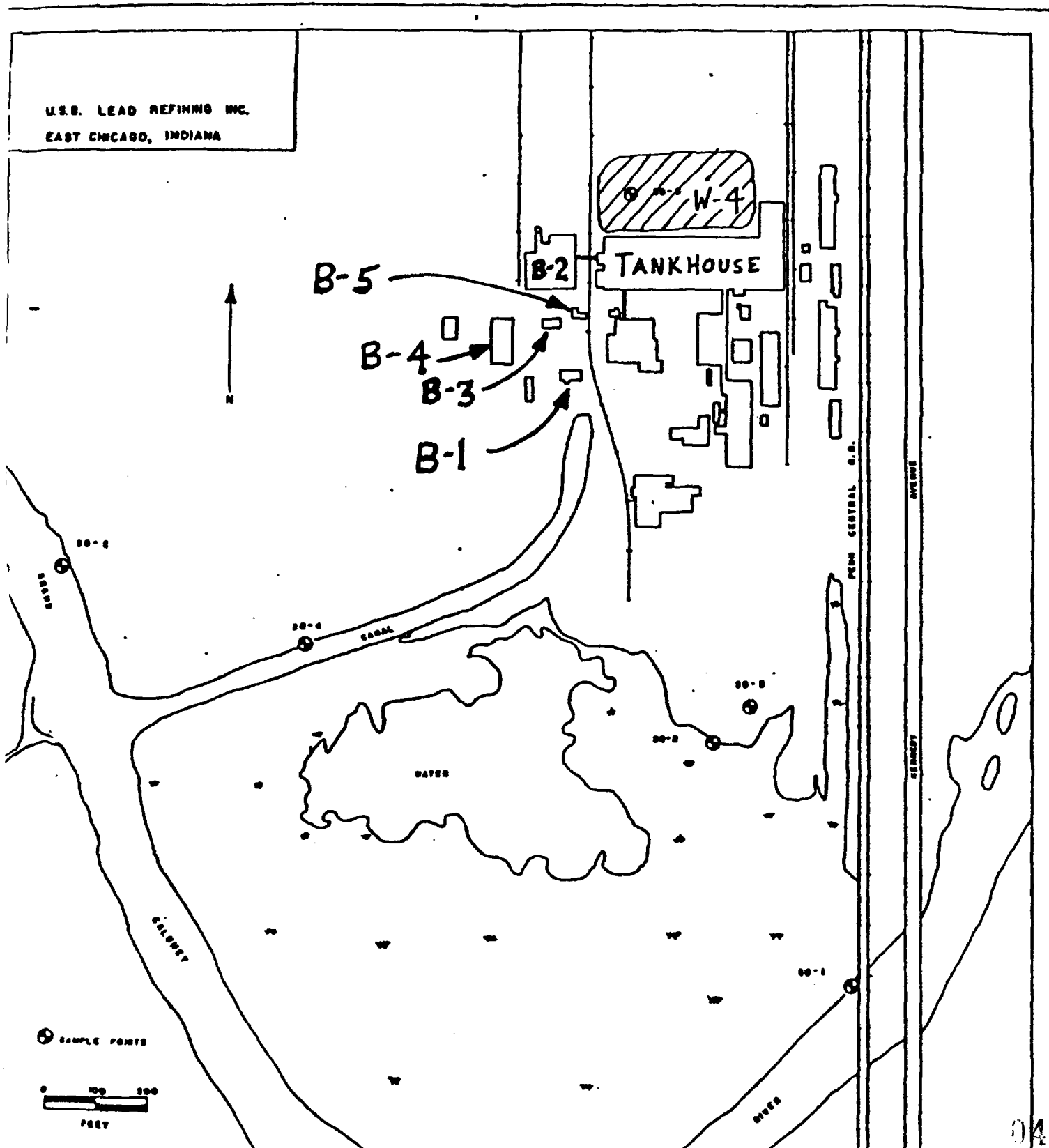
LOCATIONAL
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



INSPECTION OF 10/20/'88

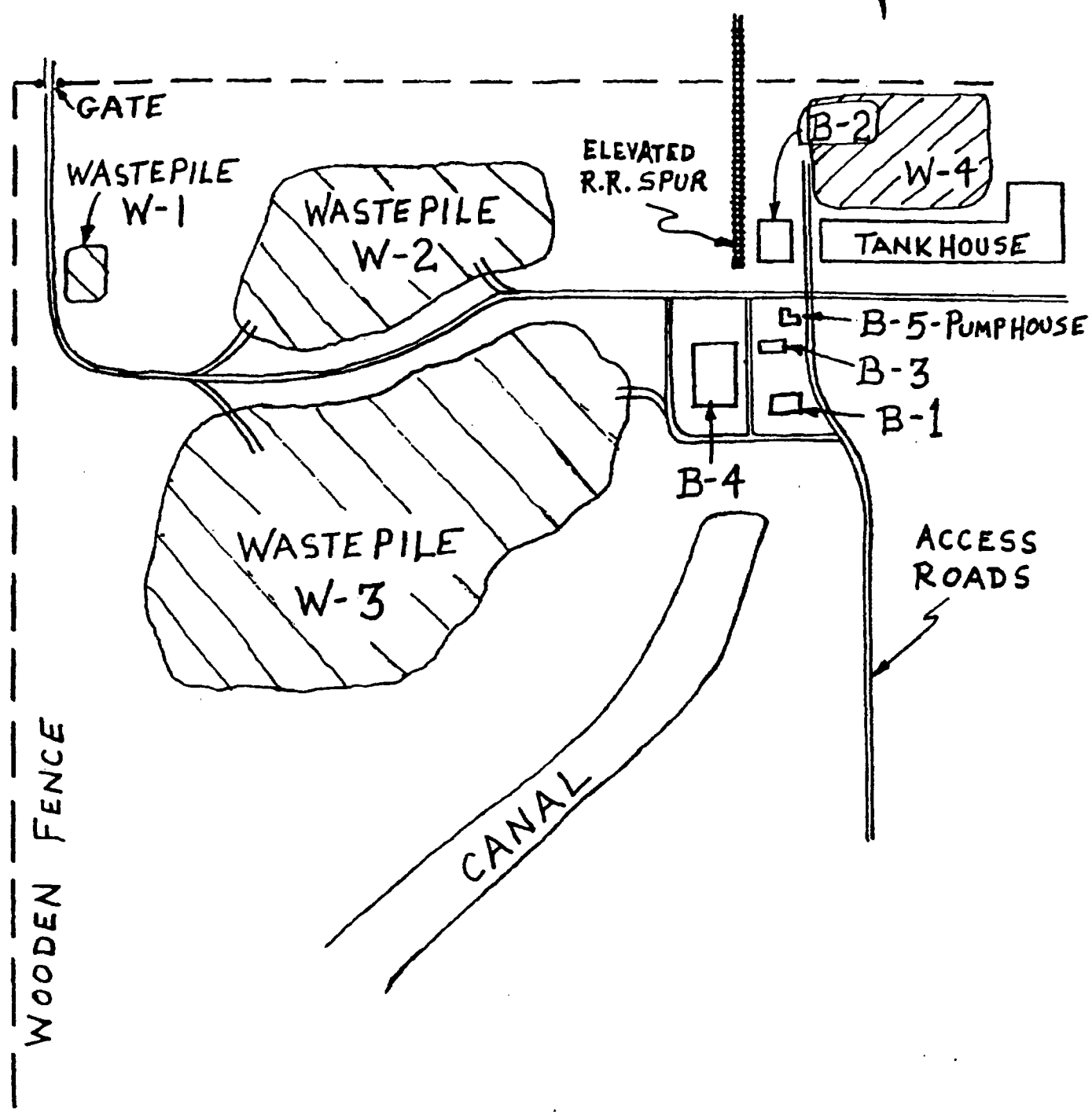
SITE MAP



U.S.S. LEAD REFINING INC.

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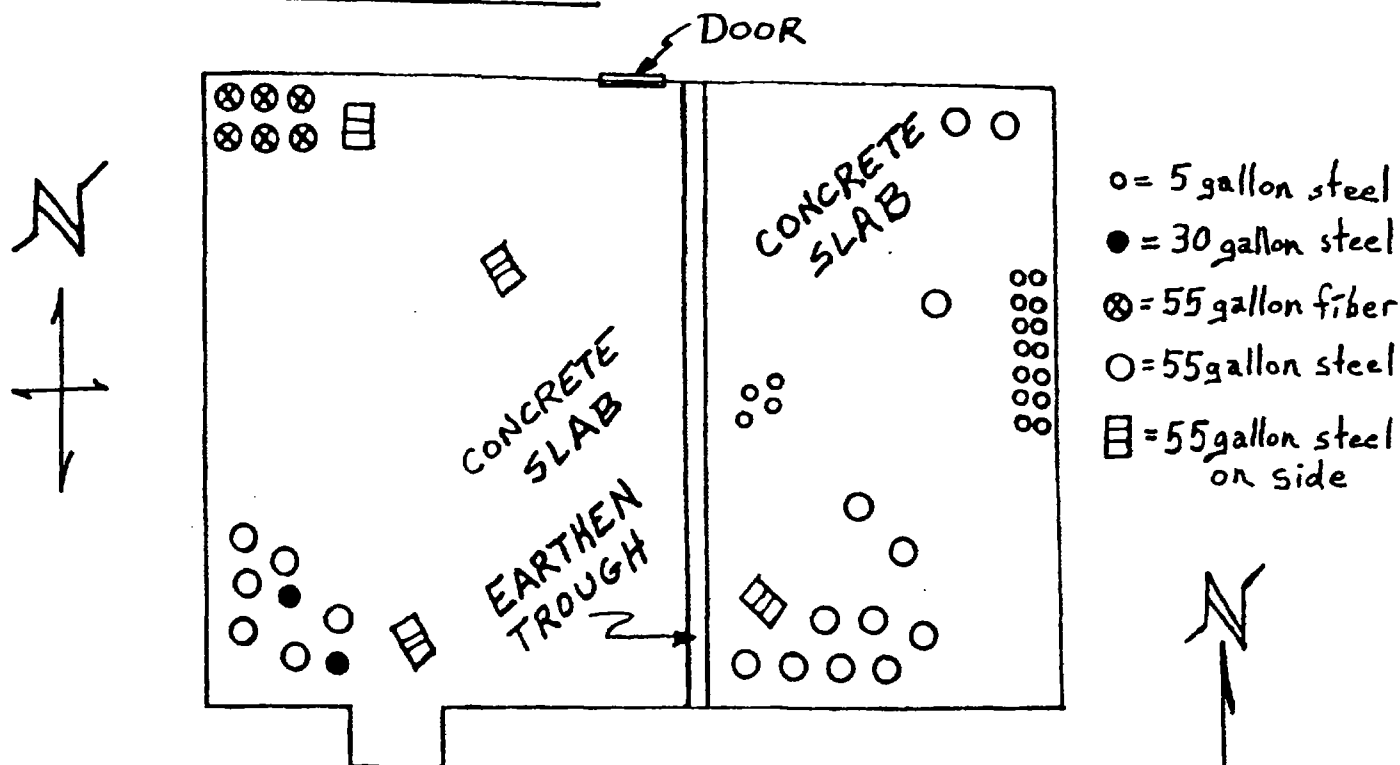
WASTE PILES



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BUILDING B-1
ABANDONED DRUMS



BUILDING B-2
ABANDONED DRUMS

